

NEWS RELEASE

Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility



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PBCDF COMPLETES CHEMICAL WEAPONS DISPOSAL OPERATIONS

PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, **Ark**. - The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) safely completed disposal of the last mustard agent-filled ton container the evening of November 12, 2010, marking the successful completion of chemical weapons disposal operations at Pine Bluff Arsenal.

"For more than 60 years, the Pine Bluff team stored approximately 3,850 tons of the nation's original chemical agent stockpile. Today, the Pine Bluff stockpile has been safely disposed of," said Conrad Whyne, director of the Chemical Materials Agency. "From the very beginning, employees at Pine Bluff and throughout the CMA made safety the cornerstone of our chemical weapons stockpile storage and destruction missions. Today we reap the benefits of their dedication and vigilance."

Mustard agent-filled ton containers were the fourth and final disposal campaign. Ton container disposal operations began in December 2008.

"This significant accomplishment has been a team effort by the government and contractor work force associated with this project," said Mark Greer, PBCDF Site Project Manager. "The support we have received from the community over the years has also contributed to our success."

PBCDF will begin its facility closure phase. During this time the disposal facility will be decontaminated and dismantled in accordance with the site's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit. Closure is expected to last approximately two years.

"The team at PBCDF has amassed an incredible record in safety and environmental compliance over the past five and half years as we have steadily destroyed the nation's stockpile of chemical weapons here at Pine Bluff. Having clearly demonstrated operational excellence, the Pine Bluff team must continue to stay focused on the task at hand and make a smooth transition to closure of the PBCDF," said Guy Campbell, Project General Manager for Washington Demilitarization Company, LLC., a division of the URS Corporation, which operates the plant for the Army.

Chemical weapons disposal operations began at the Arsenal March 2005 with the GB nerve-agent filled rockets. The second disposal campaign, VX nerve-agent filled rockets, ended February 2008; and the third disposal campaign, VX nerve-agent filled landmines, ended June 2008.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Photographs and video footage of the last ton container disposal operations are available upon request.

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